IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 8 and 16 as follows. For convenient reference, all pending claims are set forth as follows, and a marked-up version of the amended claims is enclosed in the Appendix.

1. (Not Amended) A method for servicing requests received by a server in a multiple-user environment, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first session between said server and a first user;

establishing a second session between said server and a second user;

responding to requests that are received by said server in said first session by executing virtual machine code using a first virtual machine instance; and

responding to requests that are received by said server in said second session by executing virtual machine code using a second virtual machine instance;

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are distinct instances of a same type of virtual machine;

wherein said first virtual machine instance exists within said server concurrently with said second virtual machine instance; and

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are two of a plurality of virtual machine instances, associated with said server, that share access to data stored in a shared state area allocated in volatile memory associated with said server.

2. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of sharing, between said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance, a set of one or more resources within said shared state area.

3. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of sharing a set of one or more resources includes sharing data associated with an object class.

4. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of virtual machine instances share read-only access to said data stored in said shared state area allocated in volatile memory within said server.

5. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

said shared state area stores data associated with an object class; and

said first virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said first virtual machine instance, a first value for a static variable associated with said object class; and

said second virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said second virtual machine instance, a second value for said static variable associated with said object class.

6. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by allocating a call memory for the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session; and

discarding said call memory upon termination of said call.

7. (Not Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by scheduling, for

execution in a system thread, the particular virtual machine instance associated with said

particular session.

8. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

spawning the first virtual machine instance by instantiating a data structure associated with a

single session; and

storing a pointer within said data structure to provide access to the data stored in the shared

state area.

9. (Not Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for servicing requests

received by a server in a multiple-user environment, the instruction comprising instructions for

performing the steps of:

establishing a first session between said server and a first user;

establishing a second session between said server and a second user;

responding to requests that are received by said server in said first session by executing

virtual machine code using a first virtual machine instance; and

responding to requests that are received by said server in said second session by executing

virtual machine code using a second virtual machine instance;

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are

distinct instances of a same type of virtual machine;

wherein said first virtual machine instance exists within said server concurrently with said

second virtual machine instance; and

wherein said first virtual machine instance and said second virtual machine instance are two

of a plurality of virtual machine instances, associated with said server, that share access to

data stored in a shared state area allocated in volatile memory associated with said server.

10. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising

instructions for performing the step of sharing, between said first virtual machine instance and

said second virtual machine instance, a set of one or more resources within said shared state area.

11. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 10 wherein the step of sharing

a set of one or more resources includes sharing data associated with an object class.

12. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 wherein said plurality of

virtual machine instances share read-only access to said data stored in said shared state area

allocated in volatile memory within said server.

13. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 wherein:

said shared state area stores data associated with an object class; and

said first virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said

first virtual machine instance, a first value for a static variable associated with said object

class; and

said second virtual machine instance stores, in session-specific memory associated with said

second virtual machine instance, a second value for said static variable associated with

said object class.

14. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by allocating a call memory for the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session; and

discarding said call memory upon termination of said call.

15. (Not Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

responding to a call associated with a particular session with said server by scheduling, for execution in a system thread, the particular virtual machine instance associated with said particular session.

16. (Once Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

spawning the first virtual machine instance by instantiating a data structure associated with a single session; and

storing a pointer within said data structure to provide access to the data stored in the shared state area.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-18 are pending, in which claims 8 and 16 are amended. Care was exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.